

A CALL TO ACTION

MAJOR EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY

The Puerto Rican and the larger Latino community have serious concerns about critical educational issues relating to our children. In our opinion, the Newark Board of Education is failing to provide a sound and meaningful education for our students. Generally, our community views the Board of Education as neglectful of our needs and of our youth.

Presently, our community feels alienated by the political maneuvers of the Board of Education. The Puerto Rican community has worked to elect the Newark Board of Education, and the time has come for these elected officials to address the long standing concerns of our community.

The Puerto Rican community urges the Newark Board of Education to give immediate attention to the following issues:

- Construction of an elementary school in the North Ward.

The schools in the North Ward, where the majority of Latinos reside, are extremely overcrowded. A new school was approved and resources allocated, yet our community continues to wait needlessly for implementation of these plans.

- The basic skills education at the elementary level must be improved. This early academic weakness contributes to our junior and senior high school drop-out problem.
- Major resources must be dedicated to stem the high drop-out rate among Puerto Ricans and other Latinos, as well as all students.
- Puerto Rican principals should be assigned at Harrison High School and McKinley Elementary.
- Puerto Rican and Latin-American History and Culture must be infused into the curriculum from K-12.
- Puerto Ricans should be employed at positions of administrative responsibilities at all levels at the central office.
- Minority left-unions contracts must become more accessible to Latino businessmen.

FORNOSO TO: (organizations for identification purposes only)

FORNOSADO FOR: (organizaciones para proposito de identificacion solamente)

William Aguirre: Attorney

Ivette Alfonso: Former Newark Board of Education member

Armando Aviles: Hispanic Families for Better Education

Janette Caden-Jorge: Pres., Puerto Rican Educators Association (PREA)

Ed Dominguez: Director, POCUN

Joe Fernandez: NJ Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce

Armando Medina: Social Worker

Milton Medina: Hispanic Law Enforcement Society (Essex County)

Angel Milan: Director of Bilingual Education, Essex County College

Eddie M. Savado Sr.: New Jersey State Civil Mobil Patrol

Angel Nieves: A-1 Computers, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Essex)

Hector Ortiz: Former Newark Board of Education member

Miguel Sarrabia: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Essex County)

Peter J. Santana: Attorney

Edilberto Valencia: Hispanic Families for Better Education

Jose E. Velazquez: Vice-Pres., Puerto Rican Educators Association (PREA)

Volando Velazquez: Parent, Homeowner, Newark Resident.

Presented to the Newark Board of Education
August 13, 1991

FOR PRESS INFORMATION:

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